

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 00162 021034Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 /079 W
-----021102Z 019390 /13

O R 311525Z JAN 77 ZDK CITING UR #0885M

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2714
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0162

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR XG GV
SUBJECT: REVEREND SITHOLE

REF: FREETOWN 0348 (NOTAL)

1. SITHOLE CALLED ON AMBASSADOR JANUARY 31. HE SAID HE WAS
IN CONAKRY TO LOBBY AGAINST DECISION BY FRONT-LINE
PRESIDENTS TO SUPPORT ONLY NKOMO-MUGABE FRONT. SITHOLE
SAID HE WOULD GO TO DAKAR JANUARY 31 THEN TO BANJUL,
ABIDJAN AND LAGOS WHERE HE EXPECTED TO STAY FOR 4-5 DAYS.
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2. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE FOUND TOP-LEVEL SYMPATHY FOR HIS
VIEWS IN MONROVIA, ACCRA, AND CONAKRY. HE HAD ALREADY
SPOKEN FOR HOUR AND HALF WITH PRESIDENT TOURE AFTER HIS
ARRIVAL JANUARY 29 AND EXPECTED ANOTHER SESSION P.M.
JANUARY 31. HE CHARACTERIZED TOURE'S VIEW AS STRONGLY

PRO-ARMED STRUGGLE, ANTI-NEGOTIATIONS, BUT RELUCTANT TO FAVOR THIS OR THAT PERSONALITY OR MOVEMENT. SITHOLE ALLEGED THAT TOURE WAS MORE PRO-ZANU THAN ZAPU OR PATRIOTIC FRONT AND DID NOT NECESSARILY GO ALONG WITH FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS.

3. SITHOLE CLAIMED THAT CHINESE STILL BACKED ZANU DESPITE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS' STAND. SITHOLE NOW WOULD FAVOR GENERAL ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE IN ORDER TO SHOW THAT HE OR MUZEREWA HAD MASSIVE POPULAR BACKING WHEREAS NKOMO AND MUGABE DID NOT. ZIMBABWE FACED HAVING A SOVIET-CONTROLLED MINORITY REGIME IMPOSED UPON IT AT GUNPOINT, JUST AS SMITH'S MINORITY REGIME HAD HELD ON BY FORCE.

4. SITHOLE SAID HE HAD NOT RECEIVED FULL REPORT FROM HIS LUSAKA SOURCES ABOUT THE LETTER-BOMB MURDER OF NKOMO'S AIDE JASON MOYO. HE THOUGHT IT WAS AN "INSIDE JOB" SINCE MOYO REPORTEDLY RECOGNIZED THE HANDWRITING ON THE PACKAGE AND FELT SAFE IN HANDLING IT. WHETHER INTRA-ZAPO OR INTRA-FRONT, THE KILLING CERTAINLY HAD TO DO WITH FACTIONAL RIVALRIES.

5. HE URGED THE U.S. TO SQUEEZE VORSTER AND SMITH HARDER. OTHERWISE TALKS SEEMED DEAD. ZANU AND NON-SOVIET FACTIONS WOULD NOT BE ADVERSE TO U.S. AID IF DONATED "QUIETLY", NOT BY CIA. OTHERWISE THE OUTCOME LOOKS LIKE BIG SOVIET SUCCESS IN THE END WITH HEAVY MOZAMBIQUE INVOLVEMENT.

6. COMMENT: SITHOLE GIVES IMPRESSION OF MAN WHO HAS
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HIS BACK TO THE WALL AND IS DOING THE BEST HE CAN AGAINST HEAVY ODDS. DIFFICULT TO JUDGE HOW MUCH WISHFUL THINKING THERE MAY BE IN HIS REPORTS OF SUPPORT FROM TOURE AND OTHERS.
HARROP

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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